

Appl. No.: 10/561,013

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A connecting terminal formed from a single metal plate comprising a rectangular tube-like connecting portion including a bottom plate, a first side plate connected to the bottom plate, a top plate connected to the first side plate, and a second side plate connected to the top plate; a movable contact strip formed by folding a strip-like member which extends in parallel with a side portion of said bottom plate and is coupled with said bottom plate at a rear portion and has a free end, over said bottom plate within the connecting portion, said strip-like member being further bent into a shape of mountain such that an apex of the mountain constitutes a contact portion; a reinforcing strip having a rear end connected to said bottom plate and a free end, said reinforcing strip being formed by cutting a portion of the bottom plate and bending the cut portion inwardly such that the free end of the reinforcing strip supports the movable contact strip; and a guide strip for guiding a corresponding male type connecting terminal of the electrical connector, said guide strip being formed by folding back a strip-like portion provided at the front end of the bottom plate such that said guide strip covers a front end of the movable contact strip characterized in that a rear end portion is formed at said bottom plate and said movable contact strip by folding back the rear portion of the movable contact strip, where extended ribs are formed in the rear portion of the

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movable contact strip as well as in a corresponding portion of the bottom plate in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said movable contact strip, or said rear end portion comprises the rear portion of the movable contact strip being fused to the bottom plate.

2. (Original) The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said free end of the reinforcing strip supports said contact portion of the movable contact strip from underneath.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The connecting terminal according to claim 1, wherein said movable contact strip has formed wing portions on both sides, said wing portions being inserted movably into holes formed on the first and second side plates.

6. (New) A terminal including a one-piece metal member, the one-piece metal member comprising:

a first connecting portion adapted to connect to a first conductor;

a second connecting portion connected to the first connecting portion, wherein the connecting portion comprises a bottom wall, a top wall and two side walls forming a receiving area adapted to receive a mating terminal, wherein the second connecting portion further comprises:

a deflectable contact strip connected to the bottom wall, wherein the deflectable contact strip has a

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rear end at the bottom wall and extends in a first longitudinal direction of the second connecting portion to a free end of the deflectable contact strip; and

a deflectable reinforcing strip extending from the bottom wall in the first longitudinal direction, wherein the reinforcing strip has a free end contacting a bottom side of the deflectable contact strip,

wherein the deflectable reinforcing strip comprises a rear end directly connected to the bottom wall, wherein the deflectable reinforcing strip is integrally formed with the bottom wall by cutting a portion of the bottom wall and bending the cut portion inwardly such that the free end of the reinforcing strip supports the contact strip.

7. (New) A terminal as in claim 6 wherein the deflectable contact strip comprises a general mountain shape having an apex forming a mating terminal contact area in the receiving area.

8. (New) A terminal as in claim 6 wherein the second connecting portion comprises a general rectangular tube-like shape.

9. (New) A terminal as in claim 6 wherein a first one of the side walls connects the top wall to the bottom wall, and wherein a second one of the side walls extends directly from the top wall.

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10. (New) A terminal as in claim 6 wherein the one-piece metal member comprises a flat sheet of metal which is stamped and bent, and wherein the deflectable contact strip is formed by folding a strip-like member of the flat sheet of metal, which extends in parallel with a side portion of the bottom wall before the flat sheet of metal is bent, and wherein the strip-like member is integrally coupled with the bottom wall at the rear end of the deflectable contact strip with a single fold.

11. (New) A terminal as in claim 6 wherein the deflectable contact strip extends over a portion of the bottom wall inside the receiving area.

12. (New) A terminal as in claim 6 wherein the second connecting portion further comprises a guide strip configured to guide the mating terminal, wherein the guide strip is formed by folding back a strip-like portion provided at a front end of the bottom wall such that the guide strip covers a front end of the deflectable contact strip.

13. (New) A terminal comprising a one-piece metal member forming a female connecting portion having a receiving area adapted to receive a mating terminal, wherein the connecting portion comprises a bottom wall, a top wall and two side walls, wherein the connecting portion further comprises:

a movable contact strip integrally formed with the bottom wall and extending from the bottom wall in a general cantilevered fashion, wherein the contact strip has a first end at the bottom wall and extends to a free end; and

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a movable reinforcing strip integrally formed with the bottom wall and extending from the bottom wall in a general cantilevered fashion to a free end, wherein the free end of the reinforcing strip contacts a bottom side of the movable contact strip and is configured to be moved by the contact strip when the contact strip is moved by the mating terminal inserted into the receiving area,

wherein the reinforcing strip comprises a rear end directly connected to the bottom wall, wherein the deflectable reinforcing strip is integrally formed with the bottom wall by cutting a portion of the bottom wall and bending the cut portion inwardly such that the free end of the reinforcing strip supports the contact strip.

14. (New) A terminal as in claim 13 wherein the reinforcing strip extends in a general same forward direction from the bottom wall as the contact strip.

15. (New) A terminal as in claim 13 wherein the contact strip comprises a general mountain shape having an apex forming a mating terminal contact area in the receiving area.

16. (New) A terminal as in claim 13 wherein the connecting portion comprises a general rectangular tube-like shape.

17. (New) A terminal as in claim 13 wherein a first one of the side walls directly connects the top wall to the bottom wall, and wherein a second one of the side walls extends directly from the top wall.

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18. (New) A terminal as in claim 13 wherein the one-piece metal member comprises a flat sheet of metal which is stamped and bent, and wherein the contact strip is formed by folding a strip-like member of the flat sheet of metal, which extends in parallel with and directly opposite to a side portion of the bottom wall before the flat sheet of metal is bent, and wherein the strip-like member is integrally coupled with the bottom wall at the rear end of the contact strip with a single fold.

19. (New) A terminal as in claim 13 wherein the contact strip extends over a portion of the bottom wall inside the receiving area.

20. (New) A terminal as in claim 13 wherein the connecting portion further comprises a guide strip configured to guide the mating terminal, wherein the guide strip is formed by folding back a strip-like portion provided at a front end of the bottom wall such that the guide strip covers a front end of the contact strip.